North Eastern Council (NEC). The construction of the hostel in the North Campus is at an advanced stage and the hostel is expected to start functioning from the next academic session. As regards the hostel in the South Campus, against the funds amounting to Rs. 229.00 lakhs released by the NEC the construction work costing Rs. 254.00 lakhs has already been undertaken and this hostel may also start functioning from the next academic session provided the balance funds required for completion of the construction work are released by the NEC. In terms of the Memorandum of Understanding agreed upon by the University, and the NEC 70 seats in each of these two hostels will be allocated for the students of the North Eastern States but in order to avoid segregation these seats will be distributed in other hostels of the University also.

(b) The delay in construction of the hostel in the North Campus has mainly been on account of slow progress by the NBCC to whom the work was allotted. The University has already issued show-cause notice to NBCC for claiming compensation for the delay. As regards the delay in construction of the hostel at South Campus, apart from the presence of huge hard rock strata at the site, the delay in release of funds by the NEC is also a contributing factor. The University has already taken up the matter with the NEC for early release of the balance funds.

Bio-Technology Centre at Allahabad

970. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indo-Russian Centre for Biotechnology has been set up recently at Allahabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the nature and extent of cooperation extended by Russia and the pattern of funding and sharing the results of various projects; and

(c) the details of specific projects identified to be taken up in different areas/disciplines of biotechnology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA

VERMA): (a) to (c) Under the Integrated Long Term Programme (ILTP) of Indo-Russia cooperation in Science and Technology (S&T), an Indo-Russian Centre for Biotechnology (IRCB) has been set up at Allahabad. This centre will be hosted by Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad. The centre will be a nodal point for coordination, networking and implementation of joint projects under Indo-Russian cooperation in biotechnology. The areas of cooperation include agriculture biotechnology, medical biotechnology and technology development and transfer. The funding of the centre will be as per the terms and conditions of ILTP agreement signed between Department of Science & Technology in the Ministry of Science & Technology and Russian Academy of Sciences. The joint projects taken up under the centre will consist of exchange of visits, research material and sharing of expertise in product and process development as well as commercialization.

Computer education in Gujarat Schools

971. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing any Central scheme in Gujarat to provide computer education to school students particularly in Government schools; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Department of Secondary & Higher Education has launched a revised Computer Literacy & Studies in Schools (CLASS) in 2001-2002 in all the States/UT's including Gujarat to promote Computer Literacy in Schools in the country.

(b) Under the revised CLASS scheme, financial assistance is being provided to States/UT's on the basis of the Computer Education Plans (CEPs) submitted by- the States/UTs. Union Government would provide 75% of the financial assistance while the State Governments/UTs would have to contribute a minimum of 25% of the funds. The CLASS, scheme also provides for contribution of 25%